

PATENT  
450108-4457.1**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

Claims 8-11 are currently pending. Claim 8 is independent. Claims 1-7 and 9-122 were canceled, as indicated in the Application Transmittal Sheet filed on June 7, 2000.

**II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Re 38,529 to Hirose (hereinafter, merely "Hirose") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,706,346 to Katta et al. (hereinafter, merely, "Katta"). Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hirose in view of Katta and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,055 to Hamilton et al. (hereinafter, merely, "Hamilton").

Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are improper since Hirose is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Indeed, Hirose is assigned to the common assignee of the present application (Sony Corporation) and is a 102(e) reference.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 8-11 are patentable.

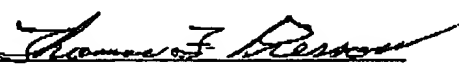
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In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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